

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A cordless blind comprising:
2 a headrail;
3 a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and
4 a second cord;
5 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the
6 bottom rail;
7 a drive actuator including:
8 a spring motor, and
9 a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the
10 spring motor; and,
11 a one-way tensioning mechanism, wherein the tensioning
12 mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one
13 of the first and second cords in one direction.

1 2. The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the one-way
2 tensioning mechanism comprises:
3 a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a
4 base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with
5 each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a
6 pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl ;
7 and,
8 a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pulley
9 having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each
10 sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face
11 having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the
12 pawl on each upright.

1 3. The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the pulley is
2 configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling
3 position and a stopped position.

1 4. The cordless blind of Claim 3, wherein the aperture in the
2 first upright is sized different from the aperture in the second upright.

1 5. The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the base and two
2 uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

1 6. The cordless blind of Claim 1, including a second one-way
2 tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant force on
3 movement in one direction of the other cord.

1 7. The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the drive actuator is
2 mounted in the headrail.

1 8. A one-way tensioning mechanism in a cordless blind with the
2 cordless blind having a headrail, a bottom rail suspended from the headrail
3 by at least a first cord and a second cord, a window covering disposed
4 between the headrail and the bottom rail, a drive actuator including a
5 spring motor, and a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the
6 spring motor, the one-way tensioning mechanism coupled to one of the
7 first cord and the second cord, the one-way tensioning mechanism
8 comprising:

9 a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a
10 base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with
11 each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a
12 pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl ;
13 and,

14 a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pull y
15 having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each
16 sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face
17 having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the
18 pawl on each upright,

19 wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a
20 resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one
21 direction.

1 9. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the
2 spool is configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling
3 position and a stopped position.

1 10. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 9, wherein the
2 aperture in the first upright is sized different from the aperture in the
3 second upright.

1 11. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the
2 base and two uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

1 12. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, including a
2 second one-way tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant
3 force on movement in one direction of the other cord.

1 13. The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the
2 drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

1 14. A cordless blind comprising:
2 a headrail;
3 a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and
4 a second cord;

5 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the
6 bottom rail;

7 a means for actuating coupled to the cords; and,

8 a means for providing a resistant force on movement of one
9 of the first and second cords in one direction.

1 15. The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein means for providing
2 a resistant force comprises:

3 a means for supporting, including a means for engaging; and, ^{25, 26, 27, 28, etc}

4 a means for tensioning ²⁵ coupled to the means for supporting,
5 with the means for tensioning configured to selectively engage the means
6 for engaging. ²⁸

1 16. The cordless blind of Claim 15, wherein the means for
2 tensioning is configured to move within the means for supporting to one
3 of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

1 17. The cordless blind of Claim 16, wherein the means for
2 supporting includes a first aperture and a second aperture with the first
3 aperture sized different from the second aperture. ^{25 for 26 33}

1 18. The cordless blind of Claim 14, including a second means for
2 tensioning configured to provide a resistant force on movement in one
3 direction of the other cord.

1 19. The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein the means for
2 actuating is mounted in the headrail.

1 20. The cordless blind of Claim 14, including at least one
2 additional means for actuating mounted in the headrail and coupled to the
3 cords.

1 21. A method of providing a resistant force in a cordless blind,
2 the method comprising:
3 providing a cordless blind, the blind having a headrail, a
4 bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord,
5 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail, a
6 drive actuator including a spring motor and spool for accumulating the
7 cords;
8 installing a one-way tensioning mechanism;
9 winding one of the first cord and second cord around a
10 pulley, having a plurality of ratchet teeth, mounted in the one-way
11 tensioning mechanism; and
12 providing at least one pawl on the tensioning mechanism,
13 with the pawl aligned to selectively engage the ratchet teeth of the
14 pulley;
15 wherein the pulley is configured to move within the
16 tensioning mechanism to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped
17 position.

1 22. The method of claim 21, including the steps of installing a
2 second one-way tensioning mechanism and winding the other of the first
3 and second cord around a second pulley, having a plurality of ratchet
4 teeth, mounted in the second one-way tensioning mechanism.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the one-way tensioning
2 mechanism is mounted in the headrail.

1 24. A cordless blind comprising:
2 a headrail;
3 a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least
4 one cord;
5 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the
6 bottom rail; and
7 a pulley operatively engaged with the cord and being
8 rotatable in only one direction.

1 25. The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is
2 mounted in a mechanism bracket, with the bracket configured for the
3 pulley to move to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

1 26. The cordless blind of claim 24, including a second cord
2 attached to the bottom rail and operatively coupled to the headrail; and a
3 second pulley operatively engaged with the second cord and being
4 rotatable in only one direction.

1 27. The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is
2 mounted in the headrail.

1 28. A cordless blind comprising:
2 a headrail;
3 a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least
4 one cord;
5 a window covering disposed between the headrail and the
6 bottom rail; and
7 a tensioner operatively engaged with the cord applying a first
8 frictional force opposing movement of the cord in only one direction.

1 29. The cordless blind of claim 27, including a second cord
2 operatively coupled to the bottom rail and headrail; and a second
3 tensioner operatively engaged with the second cord applying a second
4 frictional force opposing movement of the second cord in only one
5 direction.

1 30. The cordless blind of claim 28, wherein the tensioner is
2 mounted in the headrail.

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